

To the Editor:

Is it possible that the editorial "How About a Secret Contribution?" is a serious proposal by a responsible editor?

Castro's "offer" (that makes him sound generous) of freedom to prisoners in exchange for 500 million dollars is an outright, broad daylight, international blackmail attempt.

You say that it is dangerous and improper for "the United States" (I assume you mean the federal government) to soil its hands with this dirty deal but it's a "different matter" for private citizens to dig down into their pockets and pay off bully Castro. Private citizens ARE the United States!

What is different about it you never say. There is no difference. Every component part of the gigantic gasser remains the same.

1. The same hoodlums will receive the ransom money.

2. United States currency comes from a common source and is backed up by the same gold. Whether John Doe or Uncle Sam lays it on the barrel head, the value is the same.

3. If carried out, this will be the lowest our nation has ever stooped. This country will have been hoodwinked by a two-bit stoolie out of Russia who will laugh, wipe up his sleeve, spit out loud and brag to all the world that the U.S. is his oyster and he has us (and the U.S.) on a silver platter. Now he's trying to steal the silver.

Anybody who thinks this will save Communist Castro is sadly mistaken. Before it's over he will want gasoline and oil supplies too. (Or maybe the U.S.S.R. is feeling that till.)

You acknowledge that the success of this sickening swindle depends on the humor of the bearded crook of Cuba. Yet you support a \$17 million contribution

though that may fail if fickle dough feels blue when the dough

Then you "see no reason" why the C.I.A. (which is a part of the federal government) should not secretly make a handsome contribution. It is this that would be improper — to use tax money without our consent or even our knowledge, and do what red-blooded Americans consider to be cowardly.

If America wants the prisoners back, I suggest we tell that beatnik dictator to give them back within a certain time or the United States will come and get them. When we talked tough over Berlin, one and a half million people kept their freedom. When we moved into Lebanon, Russia butted out. This kind of talk and action is needed now. And if action needs to be taken it would cost less in dollars than \$17 million.

You state "the first thing to be done" is to raise the money. If you wait until my donation is sent, it will be the last thing done.

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